

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 12

2 INTRODUCED BY D. KASTEN

3 BY REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

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5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REDUCING THE GENERAL FUND SHORTFALL IN REVENUE BY  
6 IMPOSING A HIRING FREEZE ON STATE GOVERNMENT DURING FISCAL YEAR 2003; AND PROVIDING  
7 AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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9 WHEREAS, the savings from wages and some overhead costs through the implementation of a freeze  
10 on hiring will assist with the budget emergency.

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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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14 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Fiscal year 2003 hiring freeze -- exemption.** (1) Except as provided in  
15 subsections (2) and (3), an agency of state government, as defined in 2-18-601, may not hire any employee after  
16 [the effective date of this act].

17 (2) An agency may hire an employee if that agency's approving authority, as defined in 17-7-102,  
18 approves the hiring in writing and transmits the approval to the governor's office of budget and program planning  
19 for input into the statewide accounting, budgeting, and human resources system. An approving authority may  
20 approve the hiring of an employee to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the state and  
21 to avoid significant disruptions to critical state services. The governor's office of budget and program planning,  
22 in conjunction with the state personnel division of the department of administration, shall, within 30 days of [the  
23 effective date of this act], develop general criteria that are to be used by the governor for executive branch  
24 agencies and that may be used by other approving authorities to determine which vacant positions may be  
25 exempted from the hiring freeze.

26 (3) This section does not apply to the Montana university system.

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28 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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30 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, 2003.

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